by the small minority. The "moral insane" or moral imbeciles ought
to be sent to a special institution, which would provide the peculiar
treatment they require; and this institution might be an annexe
to a prison, but on the whole the author favours the annexe to the
asylum as generally the best method for disposing of the criminal
insane, at all events on the Continent of Europe. While fairly
presenting the case in favour of great central institutions such as exist in
England and America, Dr. Näcke does not consider that these form
good models for imitation. At the same time he has no wish to drive
a principle to death, and he considers that various kinds of institu-
tions may, under varying circumstances, be the best.

Havelock Ellis.

Twenty-Sixth Year-book of the Elmira Reformatory (1901).

Considerable changes have lately taken place in the management of
this institution. Mr. Brockway, who was superintendent of the prison
from its establishment, has resigned, as also has Dr. Wey, the physician.
Dr. Frank W. Robertson has been appointed superintendent and Dr.
Christian physician. With these new appointments are associated
various other changes, both in the personnel and the management of
the institution. Some fear may naturally be felt lest these sweeping changes
may involve a disastrously retrograde movement in the management of
the institution which has so long served to teach the world the direction
in which prison reform must be directed. Fortunately it cannot be
said that there are any apparent signs of degeneracy about the Elmira
Reformatory. On the contrary, it would appear that the recent appoint-
ments have involved no radical change of policy, but, on the other hand,
have led to increased efficiency. Splendid as were Mr. Brockway's
achievements, there can be no doubt that some infusion of new blood
was required. The late superintendent emerged, on the whole,
triumphantly from the exhaustive official investigation to which his
actions and policy were submitted a few years ago, but there can be
little doubt that that investigation weakened his moral authority and
interfered with the discipline of the Reformatory. The time had clearly
come for the reins to be placed in other hands. It is satisfactory to find
that corporal punishment, Mr. Brockway's use of which was the most
debatable point in his management, has now been entirely abolished.
It is also most satisfactory to find that—as all prisons should be—the
institution is now in charge of an alienist. Dr. Robertson, previous to
his appointment to Elmira, had been for five years the medical chief of
the Pavilion for the Insane at Bellevue Hospital, New York. It is not
surprising to find that he has set himself resolutely to deal with the
question of insanity at Elmira, and a considerable number of cases have
been transferred to asylums. Dr. Robertson is strongly of opinion that,
as a matter of routine, the mental and physical condition of prisoners
should be carefully investigated before sentence is pronounced. This
would result in securing valuable information which would materially
assist the judge in properly disposing of the case, and would prevent the
sending of certain classes to an institution of this character. "Each year we receive a number of imbeciles, epileptics, and insane criminals, who would doubtless have been sent elsewhere had their actual condition, at the time of imposing sentence, been known and understood by the court." It is pointed out that some insane criminals had already been convicted several times previously. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that in many cases a morbid state of mind existed at the first conviction, and might have been discovered by skilled investigation.

While this report bears witness to Dr. Robertson's energetic administration of the practical affairs of this great institution, we miss any record of scientific work achieved. The new superintendent, being aided by an assistant and by two resident physicians, is in a much better position than his predecessor. It is to be hoped that he will not allow himself to be absorbed by the multifarious practical details of his office, but will utilise his great opportunities to increase that stock of scientific knowledge on which alone real progress in practical treatment can be based.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.


The learned author here presents to us a collection of 235 cases taken from a very wide circle of observations, all dealing with real or assumed abnormal mental actions. In most instances the subjects have brought themselves within the grasp of the law; some were not brought to trial, others declared insane or detected in simulation. In other cases questions of testamentary incapacity had been raised. Dr. Pontoppidan's wide experience has brought him in contact with every phase of insanity. Many of the reports deal with the different forms of alcoholic delirium. Cases of imbecility and deaf-mutism are also recorded. The reports vary in length from one to four or five pages. They show much graphic power and skill in the selection and presentation of details. So varied are the forms of mental derangement about which the opinions of medical men are asked, that definitions are escaped and no one instance is quite like another; nevertheless it must be an instructive exercise to read how such cases have been regarded by a master in medical science and in the lore of insanity like Dr. Pontoppidan. Altogether this is a useful addition to the works upon insanity and diseases of the nervous system, which have raised so high the reputation of the author.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

L'Epilessia,—esiologia, patogenesi e cura. By Dott. PAOLO PINI. Milano : Ulrico Hoepli, 1902. Small 12mo, pp. 278. 2 l. 50

This small volume is practically a critical digest of the recent work in connection with epilepsy, and especially of its therapy. There are XLVIII.